SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (d) Government has authorized Food Corporation of India to sell upto 5 million tonnes of wheat in Punjab only Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) during the months of July, August and September, 2000 at the following rates:

Month	Rate
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
August, 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
September, 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

However, the issue price of wheat under this scheme in the rest of the country remains the same *i.e.* Rs. 900/- per qtl.

(c) The quantities of wheat and rice allotted to lifted by various States/U.T. Administrations under PDS during April to June, 99 and 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) The lifting of foodgrains has decreased during the said months in the current year as compared to the similar months of previous year. Allocation under BPL quota has almost been doubled as compared to the previous year. The lifting of rice against BPL allocation is showing increasing trend as compared to previous year in the said months.

Level of food stocks with the public sector agencies

514. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current level of food stocks with the public sector agencies;

(b) how far the current stock is in excess of normal requirements; and

(c) what measures are being contemplated to reduce the level of excess stocks?

Statement

Allotment and offtake of rice and wheat under TPDS during April, May and June months during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 years.

Fig. In lakh MTs
(Provisional/operational data).

Year: 2000-2001												
Month	WHEAT						RICE					
	Allotment			Lifting			Allotment			Lifting		
	BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
April, 2000	5.29	3.46	8.75	0.29	1.57	1.86	6.56	5.48	12.04	3.71	2.08	5.79
May, 2000	5.29	3.56	8.85	1.93	0.24	2.17	6.56	5.91	12.47	4.87	1.37	6.24
June, 2000	5.29	3.56	8.85	2.49	0.19	2.68	6.56	5.91	12.47	4.94	1.02	5.96
April, 1999	2.62	5.99	8.61	1.86	1.84	3.70	3.30	7.28	10.58	2.65	5.55	8.20
May, 1999	2.64	5.73	8.37	2.20	1.80	4.00	3.28	7.45	10.73	3.11	5.78	8.89
June, 1999	2.65	5.82	8.47	2.16	1.92	4.08	3.30	7.50	10.80	3.06	5.76	8.82

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The stock of rice and wheat in the central pool as on 1.7.2000 and the surplus stock of rice and wheat against prescribed buffer norms are given below:—

(Figs. in Lakh Tonnes)

Commodity	Stocks	Buffer Norms	Surplus Stock
Rice	144.90	100.00	44.90
Wheat	277.57	143.00	134.57

(c) The measures taken to reduce the level of excess stocks are given below:—

(i) There is an ongoing Open Market Sale Scheme of wheat under which any buyer can purchase wheat (10 tonne and above) from FCI at the rate of Rs. 900/- per quintal. Additionally, Government have decided to dispose of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) from *Punjab only* at the following rates:—

Month	Rate per qtl.
July, 2000	Rs. 700/- per qtl.
Aug. 2000	Rs. 750/- per qtl.
Sept., 2000	Rs. 800/- per qtl.

(ii) Commodity loan of wheat to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or any other countries who are willing to take loan in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs.

(iii) Barter trade of wheat with those countries which can supply us commodities in exchange of wheat.

(iv) Export of wheat on Government to Government account

subject to suitable price to be settled in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

Old stock of foodgrains with FCI

515. SHRI C.O. POULOSE Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantial part of the foodgrains stored in FCI godowns are old stocks

(b) whether a good part of the stocks are kept in open space under polythene coverings and is getting damaged; and

(c) the details of damaged stocks as well as the steps proposed to be taken to clear old and damaged stocks of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) FCI had about 10.89% of the available wheat stock and 4.25% of available rice stocks as on 31.05.2000 which are more than 2 years old.

(b) About 19.9% of the total stocks of foodgrains available as on 31-5-2000 have been kept under cover and plinth (CAP) storage on pucca/improvised plinths using wooden crates as dunn age and covered by LDPE covers properly lashed to protect the stocks from the vagaries of weather including rain.

(c) A statement showing region-wise/commodity-wise position of damaged foodgrains as on 31-5-2000 is enclosed (*See* below). To clear old foodgrains stocks, the Government has authorised FCI to dispose of following foodgrains through tender:—

(Figs. in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	Foodgrains	Quantity
1	2	3
1	C&D Cat. of wheat	0.30
2	Canadian Red Wheat	0.15
3	'D' category Rice	1.30